

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy
DOI-BLM-NV-L010-2012-0035-DNA
August, 2012**

Little Bald Mountain Powerline Realignment

FLPMA TITLE V ROW

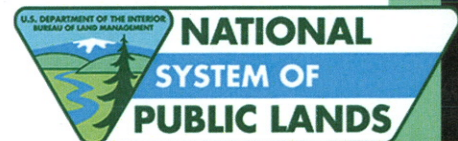
White Pine County, Nevada

Applicant:

Barrick Gold US Inc

N-89754

**Egan Field Office
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Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: Ely District Office

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-L010-2012-0035-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: NVN-089754

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Little Bald Mountain Communication Site Plan of Development Powerline Realignment

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Township 24 North, Range 57 East, sections 27 and 28, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian

APPLICANT (if any): Barrick Gold U.S. Inc.

In November 2011 the BLM Ely District Office approved the construction of 4,200 feet of aerial powerline connecting the Sage Flat transformer station to the Little Bald Mountain communication site as analyzed in the *Little Bald Mountain Communication Site Environmental Assessment* (BLM 2011). Also addressed in this environmental assessment (EA) were the construction of two towers, the establishment of a right-of-way (ROW), and a construction/emergency maintenance road.

The authorized 4,200-foot aerial powerline has not been built. A realignment is proposed as described in the *Little Bald Mountain Communication Site Plan of Development Powerline Realignment* included herein as Appendix A. Internal scoping for this plan was carried out by the BLM Ely District Office on July 2, 2012. Under this plan the powerline route would be relocated approximately 1,260 feet to the southeast of the approved alignment. The relocated powerline would consist of approximately 490 feet of aerial line and approximately 3,310 feet of underground line located outside of the Bald Mountain Mine North Operations Area Plan of Operations boundary. The proposed alignment is shown on Figure 4 of Appendix A.

The aerial line would be constructed in the same manner as previously approved. The underground portion of the powerline would be buried to a minimum depth of 24 inches using either a six-inch trencher chain or a 12-inch backhoe. The buried portion of the powerline would be a 600-volt PVC jacketed cable, also known as tech cable. The construction/emergency maintenance road would be located beneath the aerial portion of the rerouted powerline and above the buried portion. There would be no change to the location or construction of the approved communication site facilities.

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The approved ROW would be realigned to coincide with the powerline relocation as well as the existing and approved communication site facilities, changing the ROW area from the approved 20.1 acres to 17.6 acres.

The applicant committed environmental protection measures for the Proposed Action are discussed in Section 5 of the attached Plan of Development and cover the following resources:

- Air quality;
- Stormwater;
- Wildlife;
- Cultural resources;
- Invasive non-native species;
- Fire management; and
- Chemical reagent requirements and hazardous materials management.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name Ely District ROD and Approved RMP Date Approved 2008

Other Document White Pine County Public Lands Policy Plan Date Approved 2007

Other Document N/A Date Approved _____

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Lands and Realty communication site parameter objective LR-35 of the *Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan* (BLM 2008) which is to:

- Authorize communication site locations that support community and economic development with an emphasis on co-location of sites.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

The following NEPA document assessed the original powerline alignment and applies to the Proposed Action:

- Bureau of Land Management. 2011. *Little Bald Mountain Communication Site Environmental Assessment* (DOI-BLM-NV-L010-2011-0031-EA). November 2011.

The above EA is in turn tiered by reference to the following NEPA documents:

- Bureau of Land Management. 2006. *Placer Dome U.S. Inc. Bald Mountain Mine, Little*

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Bald Mountain Mine Underground Mining and Haul Road Environmental Assessment, NV-040-06-035. June 2006.

- Bureau of Land Management. 2009. *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Bald Mountain Mine North Operations Area Project*. August 2009.
- Bureau of Land Management. 2011. *Mooney Basin and Little Bald Mountain Expansion Project EA* (DOI-BLM-NV-L010-2011-0001-EA). July 2011.

Other documents relevant to the Proposed Action are:

- Kautz Environmental Consultants. 2011. *A Class III Cultural Resource Survey of a Proposed Access Corridor on Little Bald Mountain, White Pine County, Nevada, BLM Report No. 8111 NV040-11-1939 (P)*. July 27, 2011
- Natural Resources Conservation Service. 1998. *Soil Survey of Western White Pine County Area, Nevada: Parts of White Pine and Eureka Counties*. 1998.
- SRK Consulting. 2008. *Bald Mountain Project Area Biological Report*.

The cultural report listed above was prepared and submitted for the approved EA. However, the Proposed Action required that portions of the reroute area also be investigated for cultural resources. Investigations were carried out by Kautz Environmental Consultants, Inc. and no cultural resources were identified. The revised report has been completed and is pending approval by the BLM and the State Historic Preservation Office:

- Kautz Environmental Consultants. Expected in 2012. *BLM 8111 NV04-11-1927E, Survey of Never-Surveyed Areas in NOA and SOA*. Not yet finalized.

Other cultural reports referenced in their investigation include:

- Kautz Environmental Consultants. 2008. *BLM 8111 NV04-07-1698, Cultural Resources Inventory of Seven Blocks in the Top Pit Area, Bald Mountain, White Pine County*. August 2007. Revised July 2008.
- Kautz Environmental Consultants. 2007. *BLM 8111 NV04-07-1692, A Cultural Resources Inventory of the LBM Block, Little Bald Mountain, White Pine County, Nevada*. July 2007.
- Archeological Research Services, Inc. 1992. *CRR-1031B, A Cultural Resources Inventory of the Bald Mountain Mine's U.S.M.X. Block, A/B Claims, A350 AC Parcel in White Pine County – An Addendum to Report CRR-04-1031*. 1992.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

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The Proposed Action addresses activities very similar to those approved under the *Little Bald Mountain Communication Site Environmental Assessment* (BLM 2011). The proposed realignment is located within the same area as the approved alignment, but approximately 1,260 feet to the southwest as shown on Figure 4 of Appendix A. Resources analyzed in the approved EA are essentially the same as those which could potentially be affected under the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action does involve the installation of an underground powerline as well as an aerial portion of the powerline. The approved EA addressed only an aerial powerline. Potential impacts associated with an underground powerline installment would involve ground disturbance through trenching. Under the previously approved EA, ground disturbance was analyzed related to the construction/emergency maintenance road installation. The amount of ground to be disturbed would not change substantially under the Proposed Action.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. Only the No Action alternative was analyzed under the approved EA which was appropriate due to the size and nature of the project, and considering that communication facilities already exist as part of the Little Bald Mountain communication site. This range of alternatives is also appropriate for the Proposed Action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. No new information or circumstances have arisen since the EA was published in 2011 that would affect the adequacy of the analysis. The cultural resources investigation concluded that no sites are located within the realignment corridor.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. The approved EA describes potential impacts to air quality, cultural resources, wildlife including special status species, wastes, water resources, soil resources, and visual resources. Potential impacts resulting from implementing the Proposed Action would be essentially the same as those analyzed in the EA. There is no indication that implementing the Proposed Action would result in different environmental effects than those anticipated in the approved EA.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

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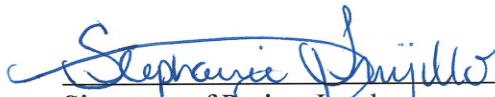
Yes. The Proposed Action lies within the same general area as the approved powerline alignment for which public consultation including tribal consultation was carried out. Public consultation was carried out during the second half of 2011, so no change in concerned tribes, organizations, agencies, or persons is expected. Public consultation is described in Section 5 of the *Little Bald Mountain Communication Site Environmental Assessment* (BLM 2011).

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

No individuals were consulted in regards to resources while preparing this DNA for the Proposed Action. A complete list of the persons consulted and participating in the preparation of the original EA can be found in the *Little Bald Mountain Communication Site Environmental Assessment* (BLM 2011).

Conclusion

✓ Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



Signature of Project Lead



Signature of NEPA Coordinator



Signature of the Responsible Official:



Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

Appendix A:

**Little Bald Mountain Communication Site Plan of
Development Powerline Realignment**

**BALD MOUNTAIN MINE
LITTLE BALD MOUNTAIN COMMUNICATION SITE
PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT
POWERLINE REALIGNMENT
June 2012**

**Barrick Gold U.S., Inc.
Bald Mountain Mine
P.O. Box 2706
Elko, NV 89803**

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FIGURES

Figure 1: General Location

Figure 2: Approved Powerline

Figure 3: Approved Facilities

Figure 4: Proposed Powerline Realignment

1. Introduction

This document includes the plan of development for the proposed Barrick Gold U.S. Inc. (Barrick) Little Bald Mountain (LBM) communication site powerline realignment. This plan of development is being submitted with Standard Form 299 to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely District Office who will review the proposed activities and perform a scoping analysis in preparation for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation.

This plan of development is a supplemental document for the previously submitted and approved project for the LBM communication site (NVN-89754). Currently, four towers are permitted at the LBM communication site. Towers A and B are existing towers, while towers C and D have not yet been erected. A powerline, detailed in section 3 below, was also approved but is being proposed to be realigned.

Barrick's preferred option for this plan of development would be for the approval of the powerline realignment.

Purpose and Need of the Facilities

Barrick is permitting the realignment of the powerline in order to provide line power to Tower D, which will be erected during the third quarter of 2011. This tower will provide radio communications throughout the Bald Mountain Mine area and improve communications to outside areas. The location of the LBM communication site and the Bald Mountain Mine project area are shown on Figure 1. Approved activities are shown on Figures 2 and 3 while the proposed activity is shown on Figure 4.

Approved Powerline

In October 2011, BLM approved BMM to construct 4,200 feet of powerline from the Sage Flat transformer station to the LBM communication site. The powerline was to be constructed with an approximately 15-foot wide construction/emergency maintenance road and consist of single wooden poles spaced at a maximum of 300 feet apart; approximately 15 poles were anticipated to be required. The pole heights are permitted to be approximately 45 feet tall except over road crossings where the poles may be approximately 100 feet tall. A construction/emergency maintenance road was also approved to be constructed within the powerline corridor. This powerline has not been built.

Proposed Powerline Realignment

Under the Proposed Powerline Realignment, the above mentioned powerline will be relocated approximately 1,260 feet in a Southeast direction of the approved powerline alignment. The powerline will consist of approximately 2,220 ft of aerial line and approximately 3,310 feet of underground line. The aerial line will be constructed in the same manner as detailed for the approved powerline and will require the use of approximately 19 poles. Total powerline length is approximately 5,640 ft.

Rights-of-Way Locations

The proposed powerline will be located in White Pine County on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The proposed location is on top of Little Bald Mountain in Township 24 N, Range 57 E, Section 28 as shown on Figure 2.

The current approved Right-of-Way (ROW) is NVN-89754 and covers the approved communication site and associated infrastructure/powerline. The towers and equipment will be removed upon closure of the mine as part of Barrick's reclamation activities.

Approved Facilities

The ROW for the approved facilities is approximately 2.9 acres and includes the buildings footprints and infrastructure detailed in the original plan of development, as well as the approved access road and approved powerline (further described below).

Approved Powerline

The approved powerline route consists of approximately 4,400-feet of aerial powerline and a 15-foot wide road which extends out beyond the Bald Mountain Mine project boundary by approximately 3,612 feet. The associated 17.3-acre ROW contains the construction/emergency maintenance road and powerline within a 200-foot access corridor, the approved facilities as mentioned above, and approximately 0.1 acres of the existing access road for a total ROW area of 20.1 acres. The approved powerline traverses across Township 24 North, Range 57 East, sections 27 and 28 as shown on Figure 2.

Proposed Powerline Realignment

Under the Proposed Powerline Realignment option, approximately 493 feet of aerial powerline and 3,310 feet of underground powerline exist beyond the Bald Mountain Mine project boundary. The total acreage for this ROW is 17.6 acres, and includes a construction/emergency maintenance road, the powerline within a 200-foot access corridor, and the entire communication site. Also included within the ROW is the approximately 0.1 acres of existing access road that was previously identified under Power Option 1 in the original plan of development.

A summary of the proposed modification to the ROW is provided in Table 1. The summary shows the approved facilities acreage, which includes the combination of the approved powerline, access road, towers and equipment and the proposed option acreage, which includes the powerline realignment in which all activities are conducted within the 200-foot corridor ROW corridor.

Table 1: Summary of ROWs

Option	ROW area (acres)
Approved Facilities ROW	20.1
<i>Proposed Option</i> – Powerline Realignment ROW	17.6

2. Facility Design Factors

The approved powerline alignment is shown on Figure 2. Facility locations for existing towers and buildings as well as for those which were approved but not yet built are shown on Figure 3. The proposed powerline realignment is shown on Figure 4.

3. Additional Components and Construction

Construction of the powerline will be completed by Barrick-managed contractors and will be completed using the existing road shown on Figure 4 as well as any additional roads required to be constructed within the 200-foot wide corridor. The ROW and components of this powerline will be located on public lands administered by the BLM. Construction personnel will follow Barrick safety protocols.

4. Government Agencies Involved

The powerline will be built in accordance with county, state, and federal requirements as applicable.

5. Applicant Committed Environmental Protection Measures

Design features (applicant-committed environmental protection measures) have been developed for the Bald Mountain Mine project as a way of minimizing or avoiding environmental impacts. The design features as will be applied to the LBM communication site powerline realignment are discussed in the following sections.

Air Quality

Air emissions will continue to be controlled in accordance with the air quality operating permits for the Bald Mountain Mine project and with present best management practices (BMPs). For example, dust control will be provided for roads through water or chemical application as needed.

Stormwater

BMPs will continue to limit erosion and sediment transport from proposed facilities and disturbed areas during construction and operation, in accordance with the Nevada General Stormwater Permit NVR300000 and the site *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan* (SWPPP). Management practices may include, but would not be limited to, diversions and routing of stormwater away from development using accepted engineering practices, such as diversion ditches, sediment traps, and rock and gravel covers. Following construction activities reclamation will be conducted to accelerate stabilization of disturbed areas which will not be used.

Wildlife

Land clearing and surface disturbance will be timed to prevent destruction of active bird nests or young of birds during the avian breeding season (April 15 to July 15, annually in accordance with the Ely Field Office policies) to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If surface disturbing activities are unavoidable during this breeding season, Barrick will have a qualified biologist survey areas proposed for disturbance for the presence of active nests immediately prior to the disturbance.

If active nests are located, or if other compelling evidence of nesting is observed (mating pairs, territorial defense, carrying nesting material, transporting of food), the area will be avoided or buffer zones established to prevent destruction or disturbance of nests until the birds are no longer present. Avian surveys are proposed to be conducted only during the avian breeding season and immediately prior to Barrick conducting activities that result in disturbance. After such surveys are performed and the related disturbance created (i.e., road construction and drill pad development), Barrick will not conduct additional disturbance during the avian breeding season without first conducting another avian survey. After July 15, no further avian surveys will be required until the next year.

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the *Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act* (Act) (16 USC 668-688d). The Act prohibits the taking or possession of and commerce in bald and golden eagles, parts, feathers, nests, or eggs with limited exceptions. The definition of “take” includes pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest, or disturb. “Disturb” means to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available:

- Injury to an eagle;
- A decrease in its productivity by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior; or
- Nest abandonment by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.

Barrick's existing and proposed construction, operation, and reclamation procedures inherently incorporate measures to protect eagles. Surveys are conducted prior to ground disturbance in the breeding and nesting seasons to determine the presence or absence of eagles as well as other migratory avian species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If nesting or brooding eagles are determined to be present, Barrick will avoid the area using a buffer zone developed in coordination with the BLM and NDOW.

Ground disturbance is and will continue to be minimized where possible to retain eagle foraging habitat to maintain production, and by not interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Where possible, reclamation is and will continue to be performed concurrently to reduce the duration of disturbance and accelerate the return to the pre-mining land uses including wildlife use with a concomitant return of the eagles' prey base.

In order to prevent an illegal take or disturbance of bald or golden eagles, Barrick will continue to utilize the following measures followed for the Bald Mountain mine site:

- Where possible, protect and preserve potential roost and nest sites by retaining mature trees particularly within one-half mile from water;
- Noxious and invasive weed control will not be conducted within 0.5 mile of nesting and brood-rearing areas during the nesting and brooding season. Whenever possible, hand spraying herbicides will be the preferred method;
- Where eagles are likely to nest in human-made structures such as cell phone towers, and such use could impede the operation and maintenance of the structures or jeopardize the safety of eagles, the structures will be equipped with either devices engineered to discourage eagles from nest-building, or construct nesting platforms that will safely accommodate eagle nests without interfering with structure performance;
- Employ industry-accepted BMPs to prevent eagles from colliding with or being electrocuted by utility lines, towers, and poles;
- To avoid collisions, site communications towers and high voltage transmission lines will be located away from nests, foraging areas, and communal roost sites;
- Process areas are designed to prevent contact between eagles and process solution by the using of bird balls on process ponds and placing overliner or other material over conveyance ditches;
- Speed limits will be maintained to reduce vehicle/eagle collisions; and
- During annual training, Barrick will remind employees of their individual and Barrick's responsibilities toward protecting eagles.

Cultural Resources

Avoidance is the Barrick-preferred treatment for preventing effects to historic properties [an historic property is any prehistoric or historic site eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)] or unevaluated cultural resources. If avoidance is not possible or is not adequate to prevent adverse effects, Barrick will undertake data recovery at the affected sites in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement between Barrick, the BLM, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Development of a treatment plan, data recovery, archeological documentation, and report preparation will be based on the "Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation," 48 CFR 44716 (September 29, 1983), as amended or replaced. If an unevaluated site cannot be avoided, additional information will be gathered and the site will be evaluated. If the site does not meet eligibility criteria as defined by the

Nevada SHPO, no further cultural work will be performed. If the site meets eligibility criteria, a data recovery plan or appropriate mitigation will be completed under the Programmatic Agreement. Once data recovery has been completed at a historic property, the BLM will issue a Notice to Proceed for work at that location.

Invasive, Non-native Species

Barrick will work with the BLM and the Tri-County Weed District to prevent the spread of invasive, non-native species in the area. Barrick also works in cooperation with the Newark Valley/Long Valley Cooperative Weed Management Group. Employees and contractors will be educated to identify weeds that could occur in the area disturbed. Should invasive weeds be identified, Barrick will take appropriate measures to prevent their spread.

Barrick will follow BMPs in order to prevent the spread of invasive weeds in the areas of the proposed activities. BMPs include the following:

- Following the BLM BMPs included in Appendix L of the *2010 North Operations Area Amendment* (BMM 2010) presents the *Invasive, Non-native Species and Noxious Weed Control Plan*;
- Surveying the proposed disturbance area prior to construction to determine if invasive weeds already exist;
- Flagging areas of concern to prevent employees from driving through a stand of listed noxious weeds;
- Training employees and contractors to identify noxious weeds;
- Segregating growth media that may contain noxious weed seeds away from growth media not containing noxious weed seeds;
- Seeding growth media stockpiles as soon as practical with an interim seed mix;
- Using certified weed-free hay and straw;
- Using a BLM-recommended seed mix to reduce invasive species over time by developing and maintaining desired plant communities; and
- Washing down construction equipment in accordance with the BLM standard operating procedures to prevent the transfer of noxious and undesirable weed seed from other areas.

Fire Management

Barrick will comply with applicable federal and state fire laws and regulations and will take reasonable measures to prevent and suppress fires in the area of operations.

Chemical Reagent Requirements and Hazardous Materials Management

Diesel fuel (#1 and #2), grease, petroleum oil, propane, and solvents may be utilized as part of the proposed activities in conjunction with equipment operation. Approved staging facilities, safety measures, transportation, and handling requirements are already in use for the Bald Mountain Mine and will continue to be utilized for the communications site. Construction, operation, and maintenance activities will comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the use of hazardous substances and the protection of air and water quality.

6. Resource Values and Environmental Concerns

No impacts are anticipated to the following resources:

- Areas of critical environmental concern;

- Rangeland;
- Environmental Justice;
- Floodplains;
- Human health and safety;
- Lands with wilderness characteristics;
- Mineral resources;
- Paleontological resources;
- Prime and unique farmlands;
- Recreation;
- Wetlands and riparian zones;
- Wilderness; and
- Wild horses.

Anticipated impacts to the following resources are addressed below, with consideration for the applicant committed environmental protection measures discussed in Section 7.

Air Quality

Land disturbance associated with the construction of the powerline will result in increased fugitive dust emissions and increased vehicle emissions related to construction.

Cultural Resources

Areas proposed for disturbance have been surveyed for cultural resources. If, during construction, previously unknown sites are located and if impacts to these sites are determined to occur, they will be mitigated through avoidance or a historic properties treatment plan approved by the BLM in accordance with the procedures outlined by the Programmatic Agreement between Bald Mountain Mine, the BLM, and the SHPO signed in 1995 and the Protocol Agreement between BLM and SHPO signed in 2009. Therefore, the proposed option will have minimal impacts to cultural resources.

Water Resources

Land disturbing activities could result in increased sediment loads to surface waters. BMPs as described in Section 7 will be followed to minimize this effect. No springs or perennial surface waterways have been identified within the approved or proposed ROW boundaries.

Wildlife including Special Status Species and Migratory Birds

Impacts to wildlife including special status species and migratory birds include loss of habitat, potential injury and mortality from increased traffic, and human disturbance. Environmental impacts to migratory birds could also include the possible destruction of nests. The proposed towers, powerline poles, and/or wire could potentially create roosting sites for predatory birds. The proposed wind generator could pose a hazard to volant wildlife.

To avoid certain impacts to active migratory bird nests, eggs, and/or young, Barrick proposes to continue performing land-clearing activities outside of the avian breeding season (April 15 to July 15, as specified by the BLM's Egan Field Office) as described in Section 7.

Environmental impacts to federally listed animal species are not anticipated. The bald eagle was delisted (removed from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service list of threatened and endangered species) in August 2007. Bald eagle occurrence is considered unlikely within the Plan area due to the lack of water

and large trees that could be used as roost sites; however, applicant committed environmental protection measures concerning eagles as described in Section 7 will be followed. The Proposed Action is not expected to contribute toward re-listing of the species.

Wastes, Hazardous and Solid

The options proposed will not change the amount of hazardous wastes or materials created.

Soil Resources

Direct impacts to soils will include grubbing and grading. Soil disturbances will remove the upper soil horizons, impede maturation of soil development, degrade soil structure, and hinder soil biological activity. Additionally, exposed soils will be susceptible to wind and water erosion; however, this impact will be reduced by adherence to soil erosion BMPs as described in Section 7.

Non-Native and Invasive Species

Impacts related to non-native and invasive species as related to the proposed option includes increased potential spread of non-native invasive species into disturbed areas. Indirect impacts include a decrease in native plant communities with an increase in competition from noxious weeds and invasive species. Barrick will implement the BMPs described in Section 7 and will extend the implementation of their current *Invasive, Non-native Species and Noxious Weed Control Plan* to this area.

Visual Resources

Impacts to visual resources include changes in line, form, color, and texture resulting from the clearing of vegetation and facility construction. The great majority of impacts will last until reclamation occurs, the structures are removed, and natural vegetation has re-established in disturbed areas. Until then, line, form, color, and texture changes will be apparent with altered vegetation communities. Visual impacts resulting from the proposed realignment may actually be reduced by the relocation of the aerial line and the decision to place the majority of the line underground.

Lands and Realty

The proposed option involves the modification of an existing ROW.

Vegetation Resources including Special Status Species

Direct impacts to vegetation will include the removal of vegetation. Indirect impacts to vegetation will include increased potential for non-native invasive species establishment. Other indirect impacts include the short-term loss of forage and cover for wildlife, increased foraging pressures on adjacent areas, and a potential increase of the erosion potential to soils which could further affect adjacent vegetated areas.

7. Reclamation

The post-mining land use for the area disturbed by the expansion is expected to be similar to the pre-mining land uses. The uses include mineral exploration, mining, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Reclamation will be in conformance with the BLM and Nevada state reclamation regulations. Concurrent reclamation will occur where safe and practical. Experience from past reclamation efforts will be considered for designing reclamation of the proposed disturbance. Chapter 3 of the *2010 North Operations Area Amendment* (BMM 2010) describes the Bald Mountain Mine reclamation plan in detail; similar reclamation activities would be conducted for the LBM communication site.

Growth media will be salvaged for use in reclamation where available prior to construction of mine components, including pits, targeting minimum reclamation cover volumes for nearby components. The

depth of growth media placed on disturbed areas may vary but will be sufficient to meet the revegetation standards as provided in the *Nevada Guidelines for Successful Revegetation*. Reclaimed surfaces will be revegetated to reduce runoff and erosion, provide forage for wildlife and livestock, control invasive weeds, and reduce visual impacts. Seed will be applied with either a rangeland drill, hydroseeder, or a mechanical broadcaster and harrow, depending upon accessibility.

Roads and safety berms will generally be recontoured or regraded to approximately the original topography when no longer needed. Reclamation of roads in very steep terrain may not allow original topography to be attained. In this case, the cross-section will be blended to ensure no slopes steeper than 2.5H:1V occur except where cut banks are on the inside of the road and located generally in bedrock. Those cuts in bedrock may remain as long-term features similar to a cliff or rock outcrop. Where the road is located on fill, the side slopes will be rounded and regraded to 3H:1V. Compacted road surfaces will then be ripped, covered with growth media from the safety berms or road fill if required, and revegetated.

As determined by the BLM, roads on public lands suitable for public access or which continue to provide public access consistent with pre-mining conditions will not be reclaimed at mine closure.

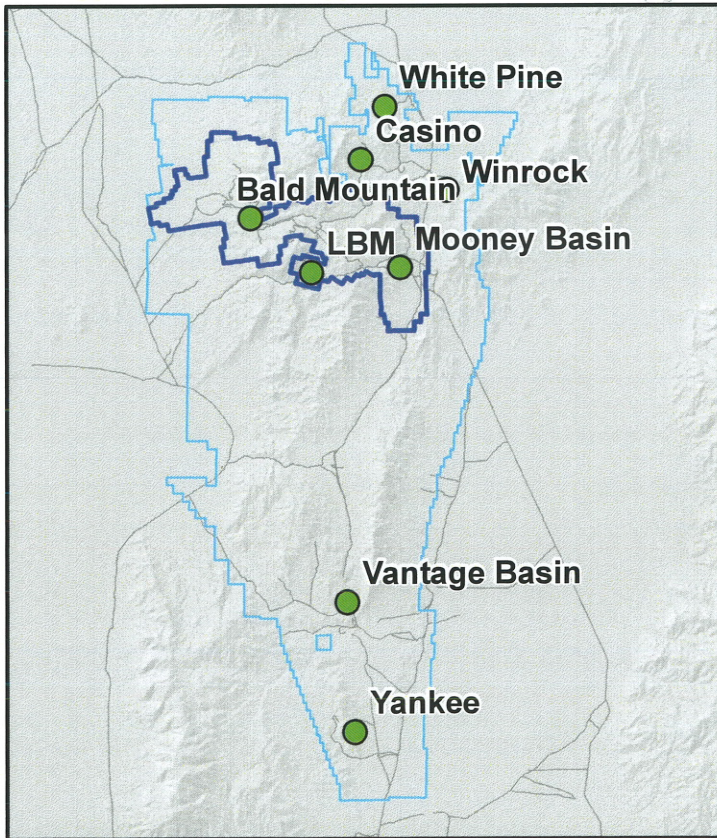
During final mine closure, buildings and structures will be dismantled and materials salvaged or removed to the site landfill or other appropriate disposal site. Concrete foundations and slabs will be broken up using a track-hoe mounted hydraulic hammer or similar methods and buried in place under approximately three feet of material in such a manner to prevent ponding and to allow vegetation growth. After demolition and salvage operations are complete, the disturbed areas will be covered with growth media and revegetated.

8. Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of the proposed powerline and approved facilities will be conducted by a third party operator in cooperation with Bald Mountain Mine personnel.

Access to the site via road is only possible from within the Bald Mountain Mine plan boundary; as access to that part of the mine area is already restricted. Public access to the communication site will be restricted by location. The site will be accessible for most of the year, with access limitation depending on seasonal snow and mud.

FIGURES



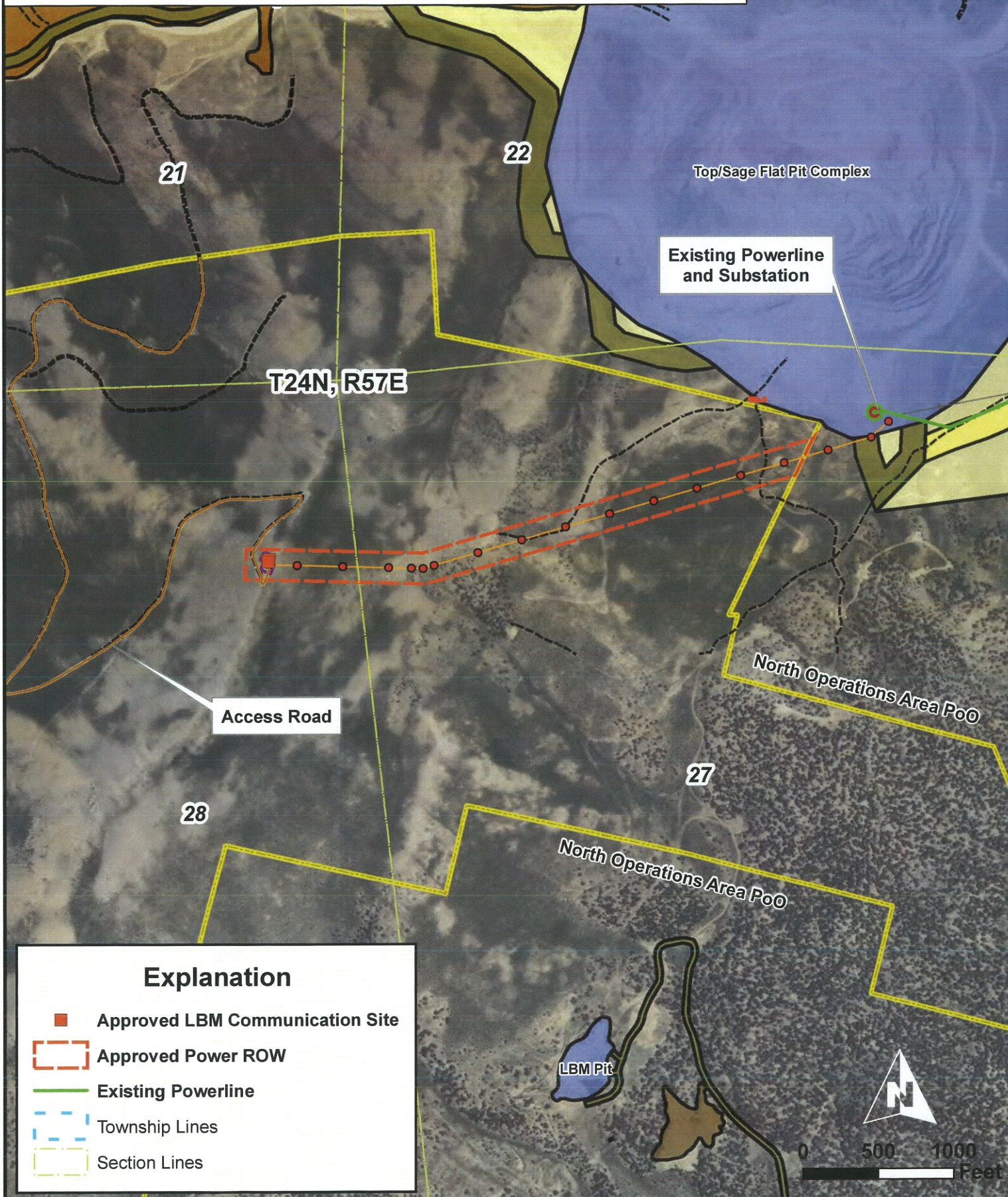
Barrick Bald Mountain Mine
LBM Communication Site
Location Map

EXPLANATION

- Mine Sites
- 2011 North Operations Area Boundary
- District Boundary

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Figure
1

File: LBM_Comm_Site_Fig1_Location_Map_061412.mxd
 Drawn By: ETS / R. Gelskey
 Chkd: BMM / A. Steensen
 Revision Date & No. 06/14/12-A



Explanation

- Approved LBM Communication Site
- Approved Power ROW
- Existing Powerline
- Township Lines
- Section Lines

Barrick Bald Mountain Mine
 Approved Powerline
 Location Map

EXPLANATION

- Authorized Disturbance Boundary
- Exploration Operations Boundary
- 2011 North Operations Area Boundary

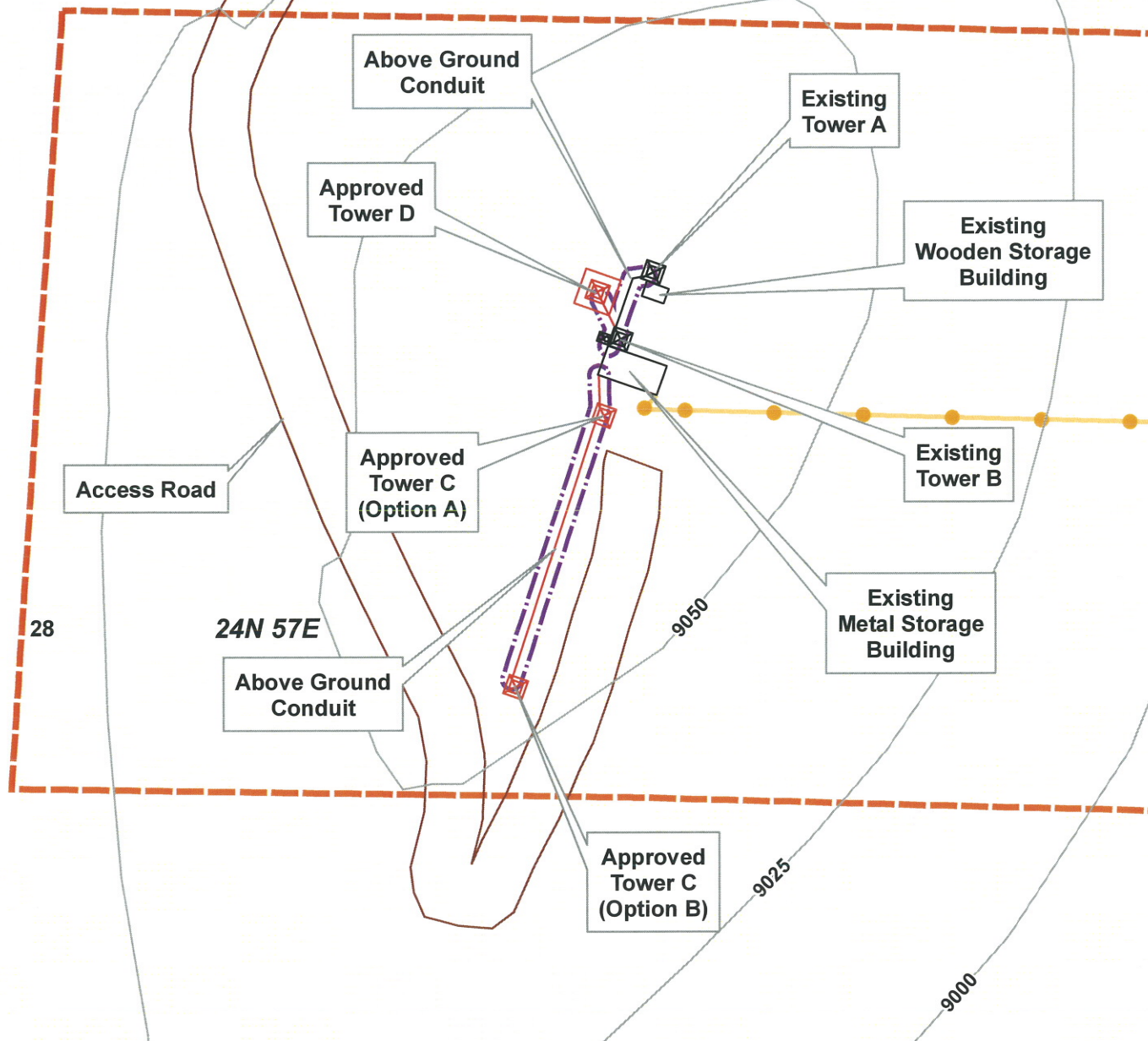
BARRICK
 Figure
 2

File: LBM_Comm_Site_Fig2_Approved_Powerline_061412.mxd

Drawn By: ETS / R. Gelskey

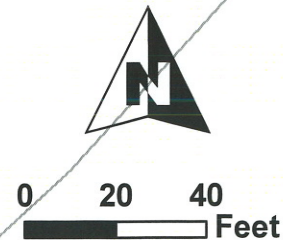
Chkd: BMM / A. Steensen

Revision Date & No. 06/14/12-A



Explanation

- Approved Powerline
- Approved Power ROW
- Approved Conduit ROW
- 25ft Contour



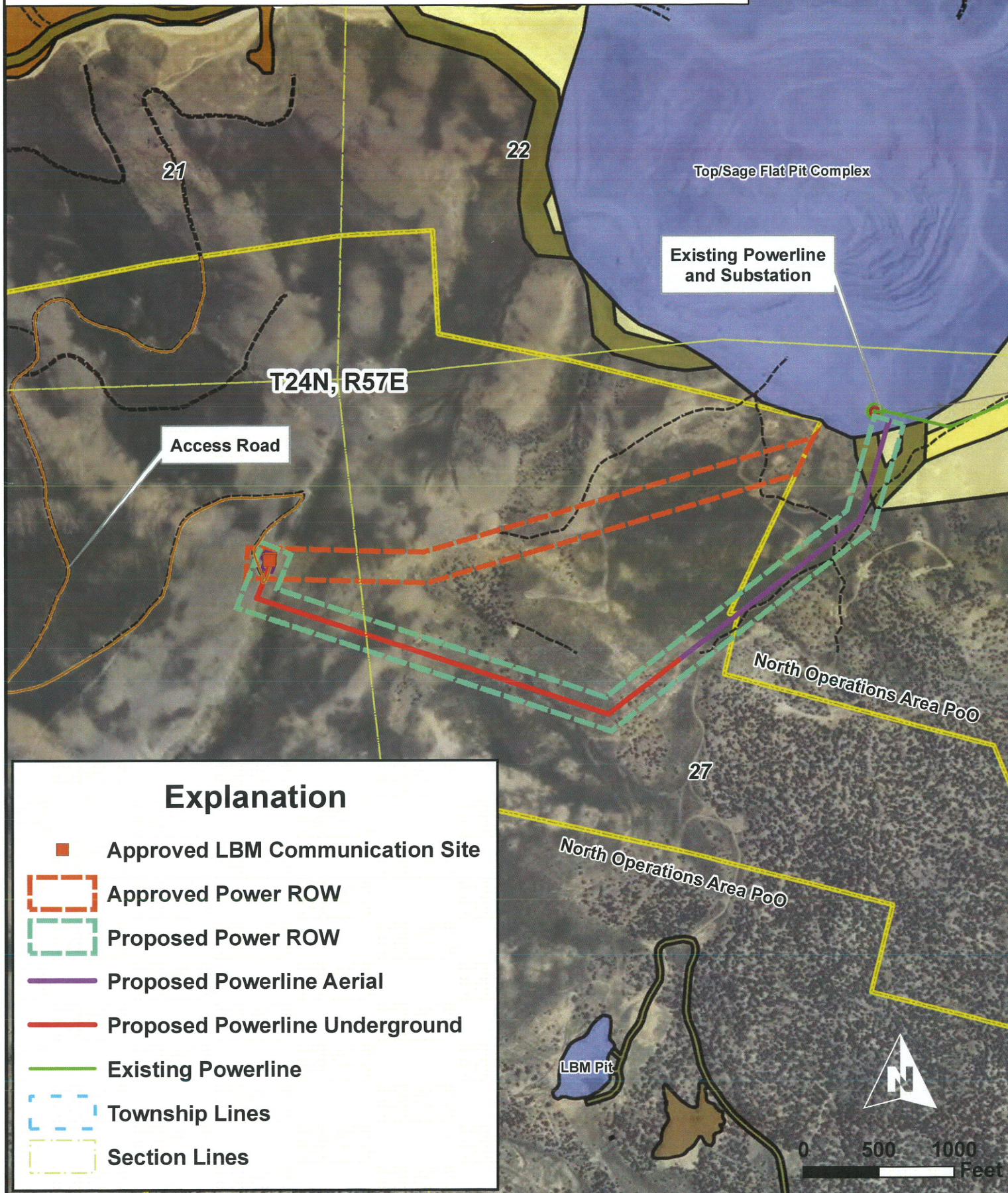
Barrick Bald Mountain Mine
Approved Facilities
Location Map

EXPLANATION

- Authorized Disturbance Boundary
- Exploration Operations Boundary
- 2011 North Operations Area Boundary

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Figure 3

File: LBM_Comm_Site_Fig3_Approved_Facilities_061412.mxd
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Revision Date & No. 06/14/12-A



Explanation

- Approved LBM Communication Site
- ▬ Approved Power ROW
- ▬ Proposed Power ROW
- Proposed Powerline Aerial
- Proposed Powerline Underground
- Existing Powerline
- ▬ Township Lines
- ▬ Section Lines

Barrick Bald Mountain Mine
Proposed Powerline
Realignment Location Map

EXPLANATION

- ▬ Authorized Disturbance Boundary
- ▬ Exploration Operations Boundary
- ▬ 2011 North Operations Area Boundary

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Figure
4

File: LBM_Comm_Site_Fig4_Proposed_Powerline_Realignment_061912.mxd
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